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## Mexico

## Export Certificate FAIRS Report

## Annual

## 2008

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**Report Highlights:**

This report identifies current certificates, issued by the competent authorities in the United States, required by Mexico in order to export food and agricultural products into Mexico. Sections I and IV have been updated with additional information. A copy of NAFTA certificate of origin is included.

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## INTRODUCTION

This report identifies current certificates, issued by the competent authorities in the United States, required by Mexico in order to export food and agricultural products into Mexico.

This report was prepared by the Agricultural Trade Office of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Monterrey, Mexico for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. **FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

## SECTION I. LIST OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES

| Product  | Title of Certificate                                       | Purpose            | Requesting Ministry  |
|--|--|--------------------|--|
| Grocery food items, frozen foods   | Certificate of Free Sale                                   | Health certificate | COFEPRIS- Federal Commission for Protection against Sanitary Risks of the Secretariat of Health (SSA). |
| Animal feed, pet food, pharmaceutical and biological products for animal use | Certificate of free sale                                   | Health Certificate | Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)   |
| Meat and Poultry products  | Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness       | Health certificate | Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)   |
| Plant and plant products – Fruits and vegetables                             | Phytosanitary Certificate- Plant Protection and Quarantine | Health certificate | Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)   |
| All products   | Certificate of Origin                                      | Origin of product  | Customs  |

## SECTION II. PURPOSE OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES

### Certificate of Free Sale

This document is issued by several state and federal government agencies and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certified laboratories. It assures the authorities of the importing country that these products comply with US requirements and are sold freely in the market of the country of origin. For example, the FDA or state health authorities issue these certificates for non-alcoholic goods. The US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) issues US Free Sale Certificates for alcoholic beverages. In the case of poultry products, the

USDA-FSIS export certificates of wholesomeness described above are accepted as an equivalent to the free sale certificates requested by Mexican authorities.

### **Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness**

The Meat and Poultry Export Certificate is issued by the Field Operation Staff of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This document certifies that the meat products included in the shipment are from animals that received both antemortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy. In the case of poultry and poultry products, it certifies that the birds were officially inspected and are wholesome and fit for human consumption. This document is issued to the exporter and also includes the general data of the consignee. Other data included in the format are district office, country of destination, folio number, plant number, city, type of facility, total marked net weight, total containers, and products as labeled with their individual market weight, number of packages and plant number. It is very important to put slaughter date, packing date and lot number in the remarks section. The name of the species on the product description line is also required (for example, hot dogs, beef, pork, or turkey). There are various sanitary statements required in the remarks section, as well. These are listed in the Hoja de Requisitos for any given product.

### **Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ**

Mexico requires a certificate of inspection attesting to the specifications of the fruits and vegetables shipped. This certification is obtained by the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The phytosanitary certificate is issued by the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) office of APHIS to the producer and it certifies that the plants or plant products described in this document have been inspected according to appropriate procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine and other injurious pests.

### **Certificate of Origin**

This is a trilaterally agreed upon form used by Canada, Mexico, and the United States to certify that goods qualify for the preferential tariff treatment accorded by NAFTA. The Certificate of Origin must be completed by the exporter. This document certifies that the listed products originated in the territory of the exporting company, and comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods in the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The US Customs Office of the Department of the Treasury will also issue certificates of origin for exporters.

## **SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED**

Specific attestations required for the export of meat, poultry and egg products to Mexico from the United States can be found at the FSIS website below:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://OFO/export/MEXICO.htm>

Additional information, including specific requirements, on the export of plants and plant products to Mexico can be found at the APHIS website below:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/index.html>

## **SECTION IV. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATES' LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

**Certificate of Free Sale**

On July 25, 2007 Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture posted notice of revisions to its Federal Animal Health Law with requirements for certificates of free sale for certain animal feeds including pet foods. Currently, exporters are required to present an original certificate of free sale upon entry of product. SAGARPA will accept an original AFFIDAVIT letter from the manufacturer indicating that the product is freely sold in the United States.

**Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness**

The document is not valid unless signed by an inspector of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, listing his name and the date. An original of the document is required and can be valid for multiple lots if the shipments enter at the same time at the port of entry.

**Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ  
Certificate of Origin**

An original of this document is required at Mexican Customs and can be valid for multiple lots if the shipments enter at the same time at the port of entry.

**SECTION V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS**

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report for Mexico at:  
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200507/146130410.pdf>

## APPENDIX I.

| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY<br>Bureau of Customs and Border Protection<br><b>NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT<br/>           CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN</b>   |  |  |                                    |                         |                 | OMB No. 1551-0048<br>See back of form for Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Please print or type   |  |  |                                    |                         |                 |   |
| 1. EXPORTER NAME AND ADDRESS   |  |  | 2. BLANKET PERIOD                  |                         |                 |   |
|  |  |  | FROM                               |                         |                 |   |
|  |  |  | TO                                 |                         |                 |   |
| TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:   |  |  | 3. IMPORTER NAME AND ADDRESS       |                         |                 |   |
|  |  |  |                                    |                         |                 |   |
|  |  |  |                                    |                         |                 |   |
| TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:   |  |  | TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:         |                         |                 |   |
|  |  |  |                                    |                         |                 |   |
| 4. DESCRIPTION OF GOODS  |  |  | 5. HS TARIFF CLASSIFICATION NUMBER | 6. PREFERENCE CRITERION | 7. PRODUCER     | 8. NET COST   |
|  |  |  |                                    |                         |                 |   |
| I CERTIFY THAT:<br>• THE INFORMATION ON THIS DOCUMENT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE AND I ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVING SUCH REPRESENTATIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM LIABLE FOR ANY FALSE STATEMENTS OR MATERIAL OMISSIONS MADE ON OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT;<br>• I AGREE TO MAINTAIN AND PRESENT UPON REQUEST, DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THIS CERTIFICATE, AND TO INFORM, IN WRITING, ALL PERSONS TO WHOM THE CERTIFICATE WAS GIVEN OF ANY CHANGES THAT COULD AFFECT THE ACCURACY OR VALIDITY OF THIS CERTIFICATE;<br>• THE GOODS ORIGINATED IN THE TERRITORY OF ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES, AND COMPLY WITH THE ORIGIN REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED FOR THOSE GOODS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND UNLESS SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED IN ARTICLE 411 OR ANNEX 401, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER PRODUCTION OR ANY OTHER OPERATION OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIES OF THE PARTIES; AND<br>• THIS CERTIFICATE CONSISTS OF <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 10px;"> </span> PAGES, INCLUDING ALL ATTACHMENTS. |  |  |                                    |                         |                 |   |
| 11a. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE  |  |  | 11b. COMPANY                       |                         |                 |   |
| 11c. NAME (Print or Type)  |  |  | 11d. TITLE                         |                         |                 |   |
| 11e. DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)   |  |  | 11f. TELEPHONE NUMBER              |                         | 11g. FAX NUMBER |   |

CBP Form 434 (04/07)